

Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC)
DRAFT Meeting Minutes: August 5, 2005, 10:00 – 1:00
Department of Natural Resources, Conference Room G09,
101 South Webster, Madison

Committee members in attendance: Ron Kuehn, DuWayne Johnsrud, Todd Ambs, Dan Duchniak, Lawrie Kobza, Jodi Habush Sinykin, Robert Nauta, Stuart Gross, Andrew Graham, David Holdener, Carol McCartney.

Welcome and Introductions – Todd Ambs introduced the new co-chairs, DuWayne Johnsrud and Ron Kuehn.

Structure of the meeting – Ron Kuehn noted that at the 2 prior meetings, GAC members focused on the groundwater management areas (“urban”) and just touched on groundwater protection areas. The focus of this meeting would be to split into two subcommittees. The subcommittees will address both areas and prioritize their work on specific issues over the next several weeks.

Groundwater Management Area (GMA) Subcommittee Issues – Steve Born offered that the intent of the statute was to take a decentralized approach and empower locals with development of management plans, while providing technical information and a framework for the plans. The GAC will need to determine management targets (e.g. maintain current water levels). The GAC is charged with recommending how to manage these areas. One of GAC’s challenges will be to engage local and regional planning entities.

Bob Nauta and Carol McCartney are putting together information on what other states and countries are doing to manage groundwater quantity problems. They will provide a summary of this information.

With the signing of the state budget, DNR has the authority to hire a limited number of staff to implement the new legislation. Once these DNR positions are on board, they will focus on writing administrative rules, completing notification and data collection requirements and supporting activities of the GAC.

Lawrie Kobza volunteered to draft an outline of the GMA issues and recommend three or four as top priority and provide to the GAC. By the October meeting there should be some agreement within the Subcommittee on which issues to pursue first.

The following list of GAC members was compiled to make up the Groundwater Management Area Subcommittee: Lawrie Kobza, Dan Duchniak, Ron Kuehn, Andy Graham, Stuart Gross, Todd Ambs, Jodi Habush Sinykin.

Groundwater Protection Area (GPA) Issues - It was agreed that two priority issues are: 1) defining and setting thresholds for significant adverse environmental impacts; and 2) providing a definition of a spring. There was interest in information generated by the three springs projects funded by DNR and UW and a fourth by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The projects started this summer. Ken Bradbury (WGNHS) and Jim Krohelski (USGS) of the Geology/Hydrogeology/Hydrology & Public Health Workgroup are involved in coordinating these projects and will provide information from the projects to the workgroup and GAC as it becomes available.

Jody Habush Sinykin volunteered to help provide information on groundwater protection area issues. DNR and WWF staff will provide copies of the springs project proposals to the group. Ron Kuehn will email a list of issues on the groundwater protection areas.

The following list of GAC members was compiled to make up the Groundwater Protection Area Subcommittee: Ron Kuehn, Mike Carter, Dave Holdener, Bob Nauta, Carol McCartney, Jodi Habush Sinykin.

Other Business – The minutes from the June 3rd meeting were approved. Mileage reimbursement can be obtained for GAC and workgroup members by contacting Jill Jonas (608-267-7545).

Next Meeting – October 7th, 2005 will take place, at the same location, from 10:00 – 1:00 in Room G09 in the GEF II building.